

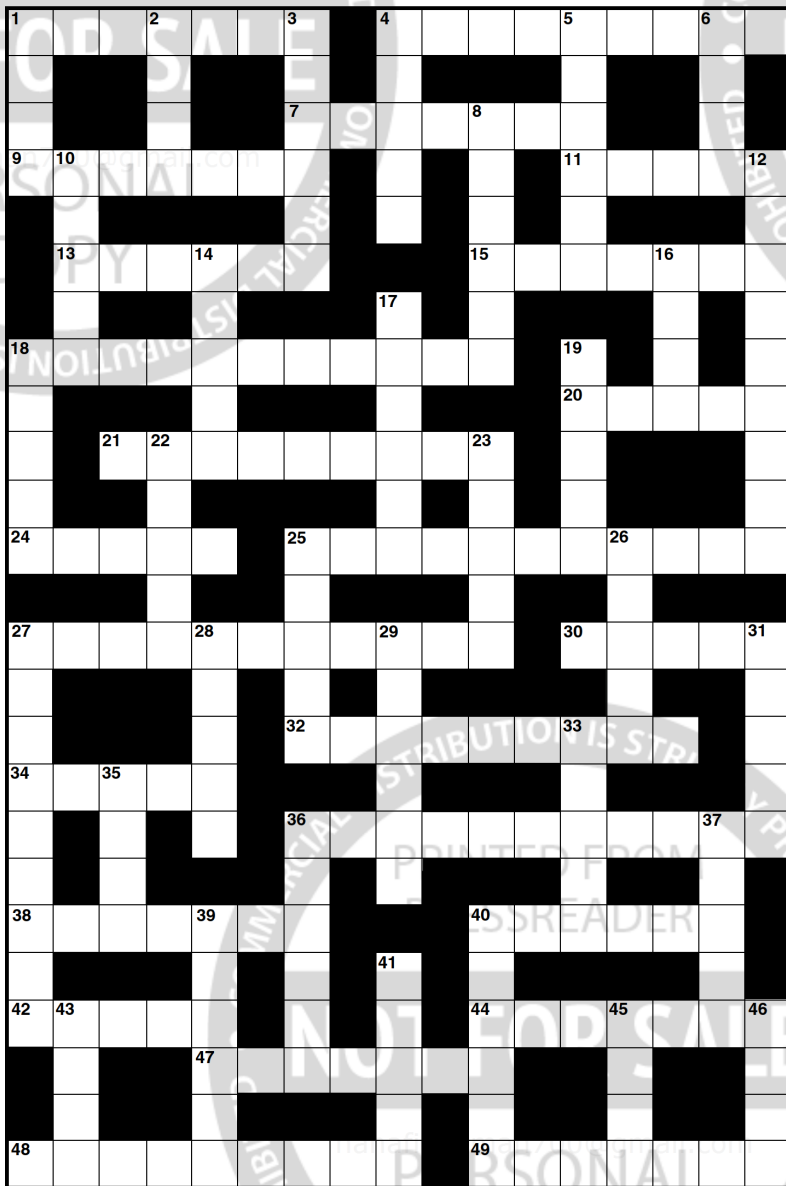
GIANT CROSSWORD

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■ SEND your answers, name and address to: Giant Soccerword, Daily Star Sports Desk, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN. Entries by first post Friday. First correct one drawn will receive £25. Last week's winner was Mr D Stradling, of Peterlee, Co. Durham.

SEND your answers, name and address to: Giant Soccerword, Daily Star Sports Desk, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN. Entries by first post Friday. First correct one drawn will receive £25. Last week's winner was Mr D Stradling, of Peterlee, Co. Durham.

1. Frank centre back who won a World Cup winners medal with France in 1998 (7)
4. Howard forward whose clubs included Bristol City and Nottingham, capped once by Wales in 1985 (9)
7. Everton and England midfielder or defender previously with Manchester United (7)
9. Pat Port Vale defender who made a club record 761 League appearances 1950-72 (7)
11. David Carlisle's former Liverpool defender (5)
13. Wales and Holland forward (6)
15. Stadium, home of East Fife (7)
18. WHU and ex-England under-21 striker (7, 4)
20. Andy England under-21 defender previously with Chelsea, Bradford and Colchester, who joined Brentford in 2004 (5)
21. Goalkeeper later with Coventry, who made 302 League appearances for Millwall 1967-75 (5, 4)
24. John Rangers and Scotland defender who managed the club 1978-83 (5)
25. name of Sheffield United (7, 4)
27. Danny England under-21 forward previously with Everton, who rejoined Bradford from Sheffield United in 2001 (5)
30. David forward previously with Blackpool, Burnley and Preston North End, who joined Oldham in 2000 (5)
32. The nickname of Blackpool (9)
34. Defender or midfielder whose clubs included Ayres, Liverpool and Sheffield Wednesday, capped 27 times by Scotland 1984-91 (5)
36. Winners of the Football League Cup in 1969 while in Division Three (7, 4)
38. Arsenal and West Ham defender capped twice by England 1969-71 (7)
40. Inter Milan's on-loan Chelsea and Argentina striker (6)
42. Norway defender who joined Leeds from Oldham in 1996 (5)
44. See 45 down
47. United, club who replaced Clydebank as champions of the Scottish League in 2002 (7)
48. Eire forward who was a Brighton substitute in



1. Sheffield Wednesday manager (4)
2. Heine, Holland midfielder who joined Middlesbrough from Twente Enschede in 1981 (4)
3. Lincoln and Eire defender (6)
4. Srnicek, 12 down's former Czech Republic goalkeeper (5)
5. Trevor, England defender who became Birmingham City player-manager in 1991 (5)
6. Matthew, QPR's former Arsenal and England under-21 defender (4)
7. Kevin, Charlton Athletic and Jamaica (6)
8. Italian club who won the European Cup Winners

12. Cup in 1993 (5)
13. United, European
Fairs Cup winners in
1969 (9)
14. England midfielder also
won Blackburn, who
rejoined Leeds United
from 12 down in 1998 (5)
15. Macclesfield Town
manager (4)
16. Brazil midfielder who
joined Middlesbrough
from Celta Vigo in 2003
(6)
17. Sammy, wing half
whose clubs included
Watford and Norwich
who managed Wolves
1976-75 (5)
18. Eike, Germany
goalkeeper who joined
Manchester City from
VfB Stuttgart in 1995 (5)
19. Liverpool and Spain
goalkeeper (5)
20. Crewe Alexandra
manager (5)
21. Aston Villa and Czech
Republic striker (5)
22. Road, home of
Manchester United (5)
23. John, midfielder
whose clubs included

Sunderland, Swansea and Wycombe, capped twice by Wales in 1995 (9)

28. Hull City's on-loan Manchester City and England defender (5)

29. Stefano, Italy midfielder who joined Derby from AC Milan in 1997 (6)

31. Kenny, defender who won a European Cup winners medal in 1981 with Aston Villa (5)

33. Taylor, once capped England forward who won FA Cup winners medals with 12 down in 1951 and Blackpool in

LAST WEEK

ACROSS: 1 Brussels, 5 Brabrook, 8 Tel, 9 Rachubka, 10 Atkinson, 11 Bertie Mee, 14 Lyons, 16 Stead, 20 Stenhousemuir, 21 Walsh, 23 Ellison, 24 Lyall, 25 Vince, 26 Edghill, 29 Haworth, 31 Arnie, 32 Alwyn, 33 Fletcher, 35 Arber, 37 Richard Wright, 38 Acres, 41 Knill, 43 Partridge, 46 Andre Flo, 47 Gleghorn, 48 Mel, 49 Ayresome, 50 Eoin Hand.

- 1953 (5)
35. Danny, Blackpool defender (4)
36. David, player capped four times by England, who won a European Cup winners medal with Manchester United in 1968 (6)
37. England goalkeeper who won League Cup winners medals with Nottingham Forest and Norwich (5)
39. Eire defender who has managed Leeds United and Aston Villa (15)
40. Bobby, full back who won FA Cup winners'

medals with 12 down in 1951, 1952 and 1955 (6)

41. Inter Milan's former Manchester United and Chelsea midfielder (5)

43. Haan, Ajax midfielder who played for Holland in two World Cup finals (4)

45. and 44 across, Bradford City striker whose previous clubs include Hull, Aberdeen and Middlesbrough (4,7)

46. Nigel, goalkeeper who won an FA Cup winners' medal with Aston Villa in 1957 (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 Brussels, 5 Brabrook, 8 Tel, 9 Rachubka, 10 Atkinson, 11 Bertie Mee, 14 Lyons, 16 Stead, 20 Stenhousemuir, 21 Walsh, 23 Ellison, 24 Lyle, 25 Vince, 26 Edgill, 29 Haworth, 31 Arnie, 32 Alwyn, 33 Fletcher, 35 Arbroath, 37 Richard Wright, 38 Acres, 39 Knill, 40 Partridge, 46 Andre Flo, 47 Glegghorn, 48 Mel, 49 Ayresome, 50 Eoin Hand.

DOWN: 2 Reaney, 3 Stubbs, 4 Stant, 5 Blake, 6 Baines, 7 Okocha, 12 Rochdale, 13 Makelele, 14 Longworth, 15 Notts, 17 Taibi, 18 Dixon, 19 Duncan Edwards, 22 Honor, 27 Ganea, 28 Liverpool, 30 Haasker, 31 Anderton, 32 Festa, 33 Kinnear, 35 Rohan, 39 County, 40 Spiers, 41 Keegan, 42 Lauren, 44 Thome, 45 Ingle.

FOOTBALL TRIVIA

Compiled by ALEX MURPHY



ON THIS DAY

On November 25 in.,

- 1 ... 1970, which goalkeeper made his England debut in a 3-1 win over East Germany at Wembley?
- 2 ... 1989, which England midfielder played his last game for Rangers, a 3-0 home win against Dunfermline?
- 3 ... 1997, which London club lost 1-0 at home to Ryman side Hendon in an FA Cup first round replay?
- 4 ... 2003, which striker moved from Nottingham Forest to West Ham for £500,000?
- 5 ... 2005, which Man Utd and Northern Ireland legend died, aged 59?



■ TONS OF FUN: Gheorghe Hagi and Karel Poborsky both have over 100 caps for their countries – but with which national sides?

CENTURY MAKERS

For which countries have these players made over 100 appearances?

- 1 Gheorghe Hagi, 125 caps, 1983-2000.
- 2 Roberto Carlos, 125, 1992-2006.
- 3 Lilian Thuram, 125, 1994-2006.
- 4 Karel Poborsky, 118, 1994-2006.
- 5 Edwin Van Der Sar, 118, 1995-2006.

SUPER AFRICANS

Which countries did these African Players of the Year represent?

- 1 Roger Milla, 1976 and 1990
- 2 George Weah, 1989, 1994 and 1995
- 3 Abedi Pele, 1991, 1992 and 1993
- 4 Kanu, 1996
- 5 Mustapha Hadji, 1998

SCOTLAND ACES

Who scored more goals for Scotland?

- 1 Billy Bremner or Peter Lorimer.
- 2 Craig Burley or Roy Aitken.
- 3 Eoin Jess or Steve Archibald.
- 4 Jim Baxter or Jim Holton.
- 5 John McGinlay or Ted MacDougall.

GIVE US AN O

All these begin with O

- 1 Conference club play at the Kassam Stadium.
- 2 Derby midfielder won 13 Scotland caps in the 1970s.
- 3 Man United defender, made his Ireland debut in 2002.
- 4 Sheffield Wednesday's nickname.
- 5 West German midfielder played in the 1966, 1970 and 1974 World Cups.

SPANISH STARS

For which Spanish teams have these strikers been banging in the goals this season?

- 1 Diego Forlan
- 2 Edu
- 3 Frederic Kanoute
- 4 Manu
- 5 Ronaldinho

ENGLAND MANAGERS

Which ex-England players have managed these teams?

- 1 Birmingham City, 1996-2001
- 2 Bolton Wanderers, 1971-74
- 3 Bradford City, 1982-87
- 4 Brighton, 2001-02
- 5 Bristol City, 1982-88.

ANSWERS

[illegible]

GONE FISHIN'

with RICHARD LEE



Grant's chubby checker

COULD this be a photograph of Britain's first ever 10lb chub?

That's the debate sweeping the angling world following the capture of a 10lb 8oz specimen from a secret Derbyshire gravel pit.

It fell to the rod of forklift driver Grant Dunn, 23, and if the weighing process and scales are verified, it will smash the existing chub size record of 8lb 14oz.

Grant, of Swadlincote, said: "The lake is a private water I've fished with my dad for a few years now - we're just about the only ones allowed on there."

Huge

"Ten years ago about a dozen were stocked to 5lb. Some have grown huge."

"I just couldn't believe it when we lifted the scales up and the needle went past 10 pounds."

TV star Matt Hayes, one of the country's top chub anglers, said: "Stillwater chub are notoriously hard to catch."

"Grant did very well to put this fish on the bank."



IT'S HEAVY: Grant and the chub

QUICKBITES

THE River Trent has produced one of its biggest ever barbel in the shape of a 15lb 6oz specimen. Bricklayer Richard Lightning struck with a legered home-made boilie.

A THREE-DAY session on a Midlands stillwater produced just one bite but what a fish it was for Michael Milton when he slipped the net under a 15lb 15oz bream. The Leicester angler used feeder-fished maggots as bait.

A SHOCK 8lb eel was the reward for Jason Burgin during a pike session on Woodsetts Quarry Pond, Nottinghamshire. A mackerel fish proved the bait for the South Yorkshire carer.

HOTSPOTS

Larford Fishery, Stourport, Worcs: Match Pool for plenty of ton-plus nets of F1 carp.

River Weaver, Winsford, Cheshire: Bream bags over 30lb on groundbait feeder.

Cudmore, Whitmore, Staffs: Chub nets to 100lb on maggot with either feeder or pole.

River Nene, Peterborough: In good form for roach bags. Try groundbait and maggot.

SHEFFIELD policeman David Preston copped a record catfish in Spain. The 172lb fish, caught with a hookbait, was a new best for that part of the River Ebro.

BIGGEST BAR NONE: Grahame King with a huge barbel known as The Traveller



IN a double record-breaking week, Britain's barbel best has been banked at 21lb 3oz.

The beauty, known as The Traveller, was landed from the Great Ouse near Bedford by regular Grahame King, of Watford. It's the third time he has set a British record with the same barbel.

He said: "I didn't set out to catch it again. I was in a swim that hadn't produced for three months."

10p TV STORIES

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Hard in Panties 0871 983 0971

TV Girlfriend 0871 983 0972

Forced TV Shame 0871 983 0973

Found by my Wife 0871 983 0974

LIVE GAY CHAT 0871 983 0975

LIVE TV CHAT 10p

0871 983 0976

Live No waiting

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Older woman 0909 9673521

Pregnant Slut 0909 9670957

Dirt cheap Live 0909 1099368

Black & Live 0909 9670956

Be Punished 0909 9673520

Unzip & ring 0909 9670136

Indian Live 0909 9673519

Shear smut 0909 9670144

First Timer Live 0909 9670962

Lessy Live 0909 9670959

HOT STORIES

0909 060+

30 SEC QUICKIE 0170

** JERK OFF ** 0171

Naughty Wife 0172

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First time SEX 0174

Masturbation 0175

Eavesdrop on SEX 0176

Forced TV Shame 0177

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THE ASHES: Glenn's warning

MAC OUT TO MAKE US HURT

OPENING BLOW: Glenn McGrath celebrates after Strauss is caught by Mike Hussey

GLENN McGRATH has vowed to dish out more painful lessons to England and insisted Australia will let nothing stand in the way of regaining the Ashes.

Fast bowler McGrath believes England will have to get used to being on the receiving end of an Aussie onslaught throughout the entire series.

McGrath was the main destroyer on day two at the Gabba, ripping out openers Andrew Strauss and

from MARTIN ROGERS in Brisbane

Alastair Cook with successive balls after his team-mates had piled on a massive 802.9 declared.

And he insists the first Test will only be the start of England's troubles with his team determined to gain revenge for their defeat last year.

He said: "We don't want to take it easy. We want to get out there, nail it and show them why we are the best team in the world."

"We just want to drive it home now."

You can never write their guys off but we have the momentum now and the confidence is with us.

"If we go 1-0 up at home, it is not too often that we lose the series."

England ended the day on 53-3, still a massive 549 runs behind and needing a remarkable revival to avoid a thumping defeat.

In the final session, the tourists' batsmen had to cope with a fired-up bowling attack, with McGrath, Brett Lee and Stuart Clark all in full flow.

Lee suffered a cut to his left leg when he ran into Mike Hussey as the pair tried to catch Strauss' skied pull shot, although Hussey somehow held on.

From the next ball, Cook edged McGrath to Shane Warne at slip and Australia were looking unstoppable.

Survive

Paul Collingwood went soon after, caught behind off Clark, leaving Ian Bell and Kevin Pietersen to survive until the close.

Earlier, Ricky Ponting continued to plunder more runs, moving on to 196 before coming unstuck against Matthew Hoggard.

But England were ground down by the tail, Lee and Clark swiping away, helped by dropped catches from Cook and James Anderson.

Andrew Flintoff was the pick of the England bowlers with four wickets but did not receive enough back-up from the rest of the attack.

Anderson and Steve Harmison bore the brunt of the aggressive Aussie batting performance and face an uphill battle to restore their confidence.



Read our exclusive close of play report every morning at www.dailystar.co.uk

as Flintoff shows faith

GOT HIM!
Skipper
Freddie Flintoff
hugs Steve
Harmison after
he dismissed
Shane Warne



Freddie backs battered mate

FREDDIE FLINTOFF has backed Steve Harmison to recover from his nightmare Ashes start and find the form that won England the urn.

Harmison has come under fire Down Under after managing just 1-123 in Australia's first innings in Brisbane and bowling a series of embarrassing wickets.

But Flintoff insisted he will keep faith with the man who tormented the Aussies on home soil 14 months ago and played a key role in the side's Ashes triumph.

The captain, who had the best bowling figures of 4-

■ by MARTIN ROGERS

99, said: "I think it's fair to say Steve has not been at his best in this game. He would be the first to admit that but it is not from a lack of trying or effort."

"He is giving everything he has got but he has struggled a bit for rhythm in this game."

"There was an upturn later on, he did get better and he is going to work hard to get his bowling right."

"We have got people who can work with him but Steve knows when he is doing well himself. He is searching for the rhythm a bit at the moment."

Harmison has regularly suffered from homesick-

ness in the past and his mauling at the hands of the Aussie batsmen will have done nothing for his state of mind.

However, the Durham pace ace told how his problems with touring are not the cause of his wayward bowling.

Harmison said: "I quite like the fact that people throw that one at me because I love my kids and I love my family."

"I am a very family-orientated person."

"That is what it is about but I don't miss home as much as people think I do."

Grief

Australia, though, feel Harmison can become an ongoing weak link in the England bowling attack and will look to cause him more grief.

And despite Harmison's comments, he admitted in a recent magazine interview that he does not enjoy leaving his native North-East.

He said: "When I am away from home I miss my family, my mates, my telly."

"I miss just being a normal person. Even when you are at home playing for England, you are not actually at home."

"It can be hard on the players. The mental side of it is very demanding."

Lewis has Tiger in tank

LEWIS HAMILTON is reaching for the stars after yesterday being named the first black driver in Formula One history by McLaren-Mercedes.

And the 21-year-old will be in top company next season, driving alongside Spain's double world champion Fernando Alonso, who has switched from Renault.

Stevenage-born Hamilton, whose grandparents emigrated from the West Indies, was just 12 when he first attracted the attention of McLaren team boss Ron Dennis.

He marched up to him at an awards ceremony in London and said: "I'm Lewis Hamilton and I just want you to know that I'd like to drive your car one day."

Dennis was impressed enough to enrol him in McLaren's development programme a year later and has nurtured his career ever since.

Beat

Hamilton has seen off another Spaniard, Pedro de la Rosa, for the right to partner Alonso and become the third Brit on the grid alongside David Coulthard and Jenson Button.

Hamilton, who beat Nelson Piquet Jr - son of former F1 world champion Nelson Piquet - to the GP2 title in September, can hardly wait,

■ by JAMES MURRAY

saying: "It's a dream come true."

"To be racing in Formula One with McLaren has been the ultimate goal for me since I was very young."

"This opportunity is a fantastic way to end what has been the best year for me."

Already hailed as F1's answer to Tiger Woods, Hamilton added: "The way I see it, my colour is an advantage in that it's something people talk about."

"But the bottom line is that it is clearly not why I'm in this position."

GEARING UP:
McLaren's Lewis
Hamilton can't wait to
make history



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(Ponting 137no, Hussey 63no)

Australia 1st innings cont

Langer c Pietersen b Flintoff...82

Hayden c Collingwood b Flintoff...21

Ponting lbw b Hoggard...196

Martyn c Collingwood b Giles...29

Hussey b Flintoff...86

Clarke c Strauss b Anderson...56

Gilchrist lbw b Hoggard...0

Warne c Jones b Harmison...17

Lee not out...43

Clark b Flintoff...39

McGrath not out...8

Extras b2 lb8 w8 nb7...25

Total 9 wickets dec (155 overs)...602

Fall: 1-79 2-141 3-198 4-407

5-467 6-467 7-500 8-528 9-578

Bowling: Harmison 30-4-123-1

Hoggard 31-5-98-2 Anderson 29-6-

141-1 Flintoff 30-4-99-4 Giles 25-2-

91-1 Bell 10-12-0 Pietersen 9-1-

28-0

England 1st innings

Strauss c Hussey b McGrath...12

Cook c Warne b McGrath...11

Bell not out...13

Collingwood c Gilchrist b Clark...5

Pietersen not out...6

Extras lb4 nb2...6

Total 3 wickets (17 overs)...53

Fall: 1-28 2-28 3-42

To Bat: Flintoff, Jones, Giles,

Hoggard, Harmison, Anderson.

Bowling: Lee 4-1-13-0 McGrath

6-0-25-2 Clark 6-2-9-1 Warne 1-0-2-0

Umpires: B Bowden (New

Zealand) & S Bucknor (West Indies).

Match referee: J Crowe (New

Zealand)

Second Test: Adelaide (Dec 1-5).

Third Test: Perth (Dec 14-18).

Fourth Test: Melbourne

(Dec 26-30).

Fifth Test: Sydney (Jan 2-6).

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MARTIN RICHARDS
in Sydney

FORMER GB forward Ray French says the Lions lost a golden chance to make today's Tri-Nations final because they lacked creative half-backs and good centres.

And French, the BBC's rugby league voice, has caused another stir by claiming that the Australia pack - who face New Zealand in the final - is the worst he has seen in 40 years.

"The Aussie pack has no ball players, they play one-out football and don't dominate like they did in the past," said French.

"GB had the measure of them but we didn't have the half-backs to create scoring chances or a good kicking game to build pressure."

Henry Ratt-led

GRAHAM HENRY has promised to "sort out" the New Zealand journalist who dismissed Wales as the "village idiots" of rugby.

The New Zealand Herald's Chris Rattue kicked up a storm when he laid into the standard of Welsh rugby.

It is 53 years since Wales last beat New Zealand and Rattue wrote: "It's pointless going on about the great history of All Black and Welsh rugby because there isn't one."

Uproar

"If rugby between New Zealand and Wales was a boxing contest, they would have stopped it many rounds ago and revoked the Welsh licence."

"Let's face it, Wales are rubbish. They are the village idiots of rugby union."

The article has caused uproar in Wales and Henry, who coached the side

■ by IAIN STEWART

between 1998 and 2002, said: "I hope the Welsh people realise those comments are not representative of us. I'm very embarrassed by the article in the paper. I was very annoyed and angry, I still am, and I'm going to sort the fellow out when I get home."

"There's 100 years of history between New Zealand and Wales and the two teams are very close in a rugby sense."

"Steve Hansen (All Blacks assistant coach) and I have both spent time here and thoroughly enjoyed those times."

WALES: Morgan; M Jones, Shanklin, Parker, S Williams; S Jones (capt), Peel; D Jones, R Thomas, A Jones, Gough, Evans, J Thomas, M Williams, R Jones.

NEW ZEALAND: Mullaina; Gear, Smith, McAllister, Slivatu; Carter, Kelleher; Tialata, Oliver, Hayman, Robinson, Williams, Collins, McCaw (capt), So'oialo.

Referee: Dave Pearson (England).

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA:

ANDY



CALL TO ARMS:
Andy Robinson
(right) and Peter
Richards in training

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Robbo fights for his job

MUST RAISE GAME

ANDY ROBINSON goes in to today's Springboks rematch knowing defeat will almost certainly spell the end of his England coaching career.

Robinson's side have coughed and spluttered their way through the autumn international series and are short of confidence and ideas.

Despite ending their dismal losing sequence last weekend with an escape act worthy of Houdini, doubts remain about Robinson's ability to take the team forward.

Blow

The stench of a first-ever home defeat to Argentina still lingers and only a complete performance against Jake White's depleted team will blow it away.

Robinson has remained unflappable under the intense scrutiny of the past four weeks and he insists he is not looking past today's clash.

He said: "I have honest, open and frank discussions with the RFU regularly and that's what working together is all about.

"I've never hidden away from anything and I've always been up front with the

■ by SAM PETERS

chief executive and the management board.

"We've got nothing to hide and we've got an exciting Test match against South Africa and that should be the focus.

"It's not about me, it's about the England team and how they perform."

Calls for Robinson's head have come from a number of highly-respected figures, including World Cup-winning captain Martin Johnson.

The RFU management team will review Robinson's position and the performance of the whole team early next month.

Robinson remains upbeat about his role, despite losing 12 of his 21 games in charge since taking over in 2004.

He said: "You make sacrifices to your family and to your clubs but being part of the England set-up means you are prepared to make those sacrifices.

"I'm just enjoying working with the team management and a group of players who I think have been exceptional.

"The team stuck together last week and rallied around Martin Corry and came back and won the match." Gale force

winds are predicted around Twickenham today, with gusts of up to 70mph expected in the south.

Robinson, who has made four changes to his starting line-up, is confident that Charlie Hodgson's replacement at fly-half, Andy Goode, will be up to the challenge.

Cope

He said: "The players have to be able to play in the dry and the wet.

"We have the armoury to cope with difficult conditions."

Captain Corry is under almost as much pressure as his beleaguered coach.

His position was undermined by elite rugby director Rob Andrew criticising the team's leadership after the Pumas debacle.

ENGLAND: Lewsey; Cueto, Tait, Noon, Cohen; Goode, Richards; Vickery, Mears, White, Palmer, Jones, Worsley, Sanderson, Corry (capt).

SOUTH AFRICA: Steyn; Ndungane, Olivier, De Villiers, Habana; Pretorius, Januarie; Van der Linde, Smit (capt), Botha, Ackermann, Muller, Floors, Smith, Rossouw.

Referee: Alan Lewis (Ireland).



I'M BOSS: Southgate owes it all to O'Neill

Mart's call opened up a Gate-way

MIDDLESBROUGH boss Gareth Southgate last night thanked Martin O'Neill for giving him his big break in management.

O'Neill's decision to turn down the Boro job and Terry Venables' subsequent stalling paved the way for Boro chairman Steve Gibson to promote Southgate from the captaincy to the Riverside hotseat.

Lack

With the Premier League ratifying his appointment earlier this week despite League Managers' Association objections concerning his lack of coaching qualifications, Southgate heads for Villa Park without the air of uncertainty which has hung over him.

But the former England international admits he might still be playing had

■ by IAN MURTAGH

O'Neill chosen Boro ahead of Villa.

"His decision not to take this job was career-changing for me," said Southgate.

"I don't know Martin too well but his results at previous clubs have been outstanding."

Southgate's admiration for O'Neill is in stark contrast to his current opinion of the LMA.

The LMA opposed Boro's bid for him to be given dispensation to take charge until the end of the season by which time he'll be on the verge of completing his A licence and enrolling on the Pro-Licence course.

"I spoke to the LMA and they said their opposition wasn't personal but they continued to hammer me in public," added Southgate.

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DARWIN 3,500 KM
WALKABOUT CREEK 2,636 KM
AUCKLAND 2,293 KM

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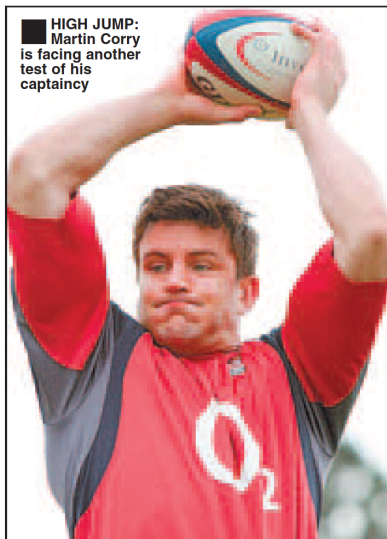
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HIGH JUMP: Martin Corry is facing another test of his captaincy

TEAMTALK

BARNLEY v IPSWICH

NEW loan signings Ronnie Wallwork, Kyle Reid, Grant McCann and Leon Knight go straight into Barnley's squad. IPSWICH may have injury victim Shane Supple in goal after Wigan recalled Mike Pollitt. Lewis Price has a fractured rib. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Barnley LLWLL; Ipswich WDWLL. **REFEREE:** E Ilderton (Tyne & Wear).

BURNLEY v BIRMINGHAM

FRANK SINCLAIR is suspended for Burnley and there is a question mark over fellow defender Jon Harley. **BIRMINGHAM** defender Matthew Upson could make his first appearance of the season after ankle, Achilles and groin problems. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Burnley WWLW; B'ham WWWW. **REFEREE:** K Wright (Cambridgeshire).

COLCHESTER v SOUTHEND

COLCHESTER'S Kevin Watson returns from a calf injury while new boy Hogan Ephraim goes into the squad. **ADAM BARRETT** and Lee Bradbury came through a reserves match unscathed. Billy Paynter (hamstring) is likely to be the only absentee. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Colchester WDWLL; Southend LLDD. **REFEREE:** S Bennett (Kent).

DERBY v LEICESTER

DERBY defender Michael Johnson (hamstring) returns, but Paul Peschisolidi (thigh) may not play. **PADDY MCCARTHY** returns from a ban to captain City. Andy Johnson (ankle), James Wesolowski (ankle) and Gareth Williams (ankle) are out. **LAST SEASON:** Leicester 2 Derby 2, Derby 1 Leicester 1. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Derby DWWWW; Leicester DWLWL. **REFEREE:** A D'Urso (Essex).

NORWICH v HULL

NORWICH forward Ian Henderson is not ready to return from knee ligament trouble. Luke Chadwick and Lee Croft are also sidelined with knee and ankle problems respectively. **ASIDE** from striker Jon Parkin's absence (ankle), Hull could boast an otherwise fully-fit squad. **LAST SEASON:** Hull 1 Norwich 1, Norwich 2 Hull 1. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Norwich LDWWL; Hull LWDWL. **REFEREE:** G Sutton (Lincolnshire).

PLYMOUTH v LEEDS

DEFENDER **MAT DOUMBE** (knee) remains Plymouth's only injury doubt - Hasney Aljofree, who has recovered from a broken nose and shin injury, will start. **ON-LOAN** Ugo Ehiogu and Tresor Kandol should go straight into Leeds' squad. **LAST SEASON:** Leeds 0 Plymouth 0, Plymouth 0 Leeds 3. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Plymouth WLDLW; Leeds WLLWL. **REF:** D Whitestone (Northamptonshire).

PRESTON v C PALACE

PRESTON'S Callum Davidson (groin) is back in training, but fellow defender Youl Mawene (knee) is still in the treatment room. **PALACE** hope they will have Michael Hughes back from a thigh strain. Leon Cort has still not recovered from a hamstring injury. **LAST SEASON:** Preston 2 Palace 0, Palace 1 Preston 1. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Preston LWWDW; Crystal Palace LLLWL. **REFEREE:** U Rennie (S Yorkshire).



HUGHES: Return

QPR v COVENTRY

QPR are without Gareth Ainsworth (ankle). Forward Dexter Blackstock (hamstring) is available. **ON-LOAN** Darren Currie provides cover for Don Hutchison (ankle). Richard Duffy and Clive Clarke remain available after extending their loan spells. **LAST SEASON:** QPR 0 Coventry 1, Coventry 3 QPR 0. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** QPR DDWWW; Coventry WLLWL. **REFEREE:** C Penton (Sussex).

SHEFF WED v CARDIFF

ON-LOAN Wayne Andrews will go into Wednesday's squad as cover for suspended Wade Small, who starts a his ban. **CARDIFF** boss Dave Jones faces a selection dilemma after signing full-back Alan Wright on loan from Sheffield United. **LAST SEASON:** Cardiff 1 Sheff Wed 0, Sheff Wed 1 Cardiff 3. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Sheff Wed DWWWL; Cardiff DWLWL. **REFEREE:** P Dowd (Staffordshire).

SOUTHAMPTON v LUTON

SAINTS trio Gareth Bale (ankle), Inigo Idiakez (thigh) and Kenwyne Jones (ankle) face late fitness checks. **STRUGGLING** Luton will be without suspended top scorer Rowan Vine, while fellow forward Sam Parkin is a long-term casualty with an ankle injury. **LAST SEASON:** Southampton 1 Luton 0, Luton 3 Southampton 2. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Soton LWDW; Luton LLLLL. **REFEREE:** P Armstrong (Berkshire).

STOKE v WEST BROM

STOKE boss Tony Pulis has no new injury worries, but will still be without suspended Ricardo Fuller and Dave Brammer. **WEST BROM** boss Tony Mowbray has Zoltan Gera (calf) fit again, while Jonathan Greening is ready for a return after a ban. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **LAST FIVE LEAGUE MATCHES:** Stoke WLVWW; West Brom LDLLW. **REFEREE:** M Thorpe (Suffolk).

SERIOUSLY football

Marcus has a point to

TRAINING

by RALPH ELLIS

MARCUS HAHNEMANN reckons three years of doing little but training at Fulham is the secret behind his new-found Premiership success.

And Reading's giant American goalkeeper will return to Craven Cottage today saying his own Thanksgiving prayer for the lessons that helped launch his career.

For the work ethic that is helping him hit the heights all comes from when he was trying to convince two different Fulham bosses to give him more than just four first-team games in three seasons.

Hahnemann, 34, now giving boss Steve Coppell the benefit of his hard work, recalled: "It was a tough time.

Filled

"I had come over from Colorado Rapids in 1999 for an £80,000 fee full of ambition and first Kevin Bracewell then Jean Tigana wouldn't pick me.

"I filled my time by playing golf. "There was a driving range next to Fulham's training ground and I'd go over there and try to take out my feelings by whacking the ball for 300 yards.

"It was a difficult time, and I can remember saying to my mother-in-law, who is an elementary school counsellor, just



COPPELL: Benefiting

how frustrating it was. She said 'So you are feeling sorry for yourself'. "It kind of made me realise that if you say that it's the same as feeling sorry for yourself and you sound like a little baby.

"So I said 'Okay, so I'm not playing. I can't do anything about that. All I can do is play a hell of a

League 1 TEAMTALK

BRADFORD v BOURNEMOUTH

RICHARD EDGHILL (hip) and Ben Parker (hamstring) both return to Bradford's squad. **BOURNEMOUTH'S** Darren Anderton (groin) misses out. **On-loan** Simon Gillett and Matthew Connolly could start.

CARLISLE v PORT VALE

IPSWICH rookie James Krause is in line to make his Carlisle debut and Kevin Harper (dead leg) should feature. **VALE** hand a debut to on-loan Clayton Fortune, with Colin Mile and Jason Talbot out.

CREWE v CHESTERFIELD

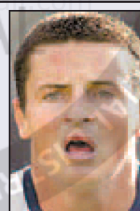
CREWE are set to have an unchanged line-up, but illness could see Tony Grant lose his place on the bench. **CALEB FOLAN** is suspended for Chesterfield and Phil Picken (knee) is in contention for a start.

DONCASTER v BRIGHTON

NEIL SULLIVAN will go straight into Doncaster's squad and Steve Roberts (facial injury) should feature. **BRIGHTON'S** on-loan striker Dean Bowditch (groin) is struggling but Georges Santos (ankle) is pushing for inclusion.

GILLINGHAM v ROTHERHAM

GILLINGHAM'S Leon Johnson (knee) is fit to take on the Millers, but will be on the bench and Alan Pouton is hoping for a recall. **ROTHERHAM** miss Lee Williamson (toe) and Michael Keane (hamstring), but Colin Murdock (hip) is in contention for the trip to Priestfield.



KEANE: Out

HUDDERSFIELD v OLDHAM

MARTIN MCINTOSH (groin), Jon Worthington and Andy Holdsworth (bans) will return. **OLDHAM** ATHLETIC'S Simon Charlton (hamstring) is doubtful to face his hometown club, but Neil Eardley could feature after knee trouble.



MCINTOSH: Back

NORTHAMPTON v L ORIENT

JASON CROWE is suspended and Chris Doig (ankle) is a major injury doubt for Northampton, but Andy Kirk (ankle) could return. **LUKE GUTTRIDGE** and James Walker could make their Orient debuts.

NOTTM FOREST v MILLWALL

FOREST stars Nathan Tyson (knee) and Junior Agogo (stomach) and John Curtis (groin) should feature. **MILLWALL** forward Chris Zebroski is suspended and Tony Craig, Mark Phillips, Jody Morris and Tom Brighton are out.

YEOVIL v SCUNTHORPE

YEOVIL'S Terry Skiverton, Paul Terry and Arron Davies are all facing a race to be fit but Scott Guyett is suspended. **DEFENDER** Andy Crosby (hamstring) is expected to be fit for Scunthorpe but Ian Morris (knee) is out.

SWANSEA v BRISTOL CITY

TOMORROW, 1.30pm **SWANSEA** will hand loan star Ian Craney his debut. Tom Williams (hernia) is out. **CITY** duo Scott Brown and David Noble (both hamstring) both missed last week's home win over Gillingham, but could play a part.

prove after his Fulham misery

MADE ME A TOP MAN

lot of golf and train hard".
"For a goalkeeper, when you are not in the team, it's probably the hardest job there is in any club."
"You have to prepare yourself like you are going to play, because if the other guy gets injured or sent off in the first minute you have to be ready to go on."

Hard

"But that means psychologically it is difficult because not only do you have to do that for the first team but you play all the reserve games."

Hahnemann added: "If you are playing all the time, you get your enjoyment from games. When you are not it has to come from training, so I learned to train really hard."

"I'm looking forward to going back to Fulham. I've had a few texts telling me how many they are going to score past me!"

Coppell? I used to hate him

CHRIS COLEMAN has hailed Steve Coppell as one of football's great guys - but admitted there was a time when he could not stand his old boss.

The duo square up as rival managers today but when Coppell took the Wales international to Crystal Palace as a defender in the 1990s he promptly infuriated him by trying to turn him into a centre-forward.

Coleman said: "I probably played 30 games as a striker in the Premiership. I hated it and I hated him for putting me up there. I was in his office every week."

Honest

"First I played with Mark Bright and then Chris Armstrong and it was a bit difficult for me to follow the Ian Wright-Mark Bright partnership. I did get a few goals though. I think I got eight - all with my head."

"He's a great guy, Steve. I like him and respect him a lot. He has done a fantastic job there. He is an honest and intelligent

■ by SCOTT COLEMAN

man on and off the pitch and he keeps everything simple."

Coppell also has a reputation for being one of the least excitable managers but Fulham boss Coleman recalled that during their Palace days tempers were lost on a regular basis.

He said: "I saw him lose his temper many times but never for the sake of it. He was always calm and spoke very well."

"There were fights in training all the time but that was good because it meant there was a lot of passion and emotion."

"He let the lads work it out for themselves. He always seemed to know when to back off or when to be in the middle of it."

TABLES

Barclays Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	13	11	1	1	29	6	34
Chelsea	13	10	1	2	23	7	31
Portsmouth	13	7	2	4	19	11	23
Arsenal	12	6	4	2	20	7	22
Aston Villa	13	5	7	1	15	9	22
Bolton	13	6	3	4	12	21	21
Everton	13	5	5	3	17	20	20
Reading	13	6	1	6	15	18	19
Wigan	12	5	3	4	16	13	18
Liverpool	13	5	3	5	14	15	18
Fulham	13	4	5	4	14	19	17
Man City	13	4	4	5	10	15	16
Tottenham	13	4	4	5	10	15	16
Middlesbrough	13	4	3	6	10	16	15
Blackburn	13	4	3	6	11	17	13
West Ham	13	3	2	8	9	16	11
Newcastle	13	2	4	7	8	15	10
Sheff Utd	13	2	4	7	8	10	10
Watford	13	1	6	10	10	19	9
Charlton	13	2	2	9	9	20	8

Coca-Cola Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	18	11	3	4	31	17	36
Preston	18	10	6	2	20	16	36
Birmingham	18	10	4	4	24	16	34
Burnley	18	9	4	5	26	18	31
Derby	18	6	6	6	28	23	21
West Brom	18	8	5	5	31	19	29
Wolves	18	9	4	7	17	22	29
Stoke	18	7	6	5	25	15	27
Shimshon	18	7	6	5	24	18	27
Plymouth	18	6	6	6	23	20	24
Coventry	18	8	1	9	18	17	25
Norwich	18	7	3	8	29	27	24
Ipswich	18	7	3	8	29	27	24
Colchester	18	7	3	8	25	24	24
QPR	18	6	6	6	30	24	24
Sunderland	18	7	3	8	25	24	24
Sheff Wed	18	6	6	6	25	24	24
Leicester	18	5	7	6	18	20	22
Luton	18	4	8	5	25	32	22
Crystal Palace	18	6	3	9	21	25	21
Hull	18	4	4	10	14	23	16
Leeds	18	5	5	8	19	36	16
Barnsley	18	4	3	11	22	36	15
Southend	18	2	6	10	16	32	12

Coca-Cola League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottn Forest	18	11	5	2	23	11	38
Tranmere	18	10	4	4	23	13	34
Scunthorpe	18	10	2	6	25	18	32
Bristol City	18	10	2	6	25	18	32
Yeovil	18	9	3	6	26	20	30
Swansea	18	9	3	6	26	20	30
Oldham	18	8	5	5	25	26	29
Carlisle	18	7	6	5	26	27	27
Crewe	18	8	2	8	34	31	26
Blackpool	18	7	6	5	26	21	27
Huddersfield	18	6	6	6	25	27	24
Brighton	18	7	3	8	24	27	24
Gillingham	18	7	3	8	27	32	24
Port Vale	18	7	2	9	20	25	23
Doncaster	18	6	5	7	21	31	23
Cheltenham	18	6	4	8	24	25	22
Northampton	18	5	7	6	15	22	22
Doncaster	18	4	5	9	16	28	17
Rotherham	18	4	4	6	29	33	16
Cheltenham	18	5	3	10	16	28	18
Millwall	18	4	5	9	17	28	17
Barnsley	18	3	8	7	17	26	16
Bournemouth	18	3	7	8	17	26	16
Leyton Orient	18	3	6	9	20	34	15

Coca-Cola League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Walsall	18	12	5	1	30	8	41
Lincoln City	18	11	2	5	38	22	35
Swindon	18	10	4	4	24	14	34
Wycombe	18	10	4	4	23	13	34
MK Dons	18	10	3	5	30	33	33
Northampton	18	8	7	3	25	19	31
Peterborough	18	9	4	5	27	24	31
Bradford	18	9	3	6	26	21	30
Bury	18	8	2	8	23	23	26
Reading	18	9	4	5	22	22	31
Stockport	18	4	7	7	21	25	19
Bristol Rovers	18	7	4	7	15	19	25
Barnet	18	5	5	8	16	28	18
Shrewsbury	17	5	7	5	24	17	22
Cheltenham	18	5	7	6	16	21	22
Mansfield	18	5	6	7	24	28	21
Barnet	18	5	6	7	26	32	21
Accrington	18	4	8	6	22	29	20
Wrexham	17	5	4	8	17	27	19
Torquay	18	4	6	8	20	18	18
Rochdale	18	4	5	9	19	26	17
Grimsby	18	4	5	9	23	16	17
Boston Utd	18	4	3	11	23	16	16
Macclesfield	18	0	6	12	17	35	6

Nationwide Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford Utd	19	13	5	1	35	10	44
Dag & Red	19	13	3	3	44	19	42
Weymouth	19	10	4	5	23	18	34
Gravesend	19	10	4	5	25	24	34
Morecambe	19	9	5	5	27	22	32
Burton Albion	19	9	5	5	24	21	32
Exeter	19	9	4	6	21	19	31
Aldershot	19	7	5	7	28	26	26
Stafford R	19	7	5	7	19	27	26
Woking	19	7	4	8	25	24	25
Northwich	19	8	1	10	25	35	25
Stevenage	19	6	4	9	31	32	22
Halifax	19	6	4	9	24	27	22
Forest Green	19	6	3	10	23	30	21
Kidderminster	19	5	6	8	17	24	21
Altrincham	19	5	6	8	19	27	21
Cambridge Utd	20	5	5	10	20	28	20
Tamworth	19	5	5	9	22	33	20
St Albans	19	5	3	11	29	40	19
Rushden & D	19	4	5	10	22	28	17
Crawley Town	19	4	5	10	22	28	17
Southport	19	3	7	9	19	29	16

Bank of Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	15	1	1	31	10	40	10
Rangers	15	7	4	4	23	16	25
Aberdeen	15	6	5	19	12	21	21
Hibernian	15	6	4	5	28	16	22
Hearts	15	6	4	5	21	16	22
Kilmarnock	15	6	4	5	19	12	21
Inverness CT	15	4	7	4	16	19	19
Dundee	15	4	7	4	14	20	16
St Mirren	15	3	9	11	18	24	18
Dundee Utd	15	3	9	11	18	24	18
Motherwell	15	3	9	11	18	24	18
Dunfermline	15	3	9	11	18	24	18

Scottish First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gretna	14	8	3	3	37	20	27
Partick	14	3	3	8	24	27	12
St Johnstone	14	6	6	2	25	12	24
Hamilton	14	7	3	4	18	19	24
Livingston	14	5	4	18	13	20	19
Clyde	14	4	6	4	17	17	18
Dundee	14	5	2	7	17	17	17
Rose County	14	4	3	7	13	21	15
Queen of South	14	3	2	9	10	26	11
Airdrie Utd	14	3	2	9	14	19	11

Scottish Second Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morton	14	10	2	2	33	11	32
Stirling	14	8	5	1	28	14	29
Ayr	14	7	4	3	20	12	24
Alloa	14	7	2	5	10	23	23
Cowdenbeath	14	5	6	3	28	21	18
Stranraer	14	5	2	7	20	31	17
Peterhead	14	2	4	24	14	24	14
Keith	14	3	5	6	13	18	14
Forfar	14	1	3	10	12	37	6

Scottish Third Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
East Fife	15	9	3	3	25	10	30
Queens Park	14	8	4	2	21	26	28
Stenhousemuir	14	8	1	5	10	17	25
Dumfries	14	7	2	5	18	10	23
Berwick	14	7	2	5	17	15	23
Arbroath	14	7	1	6	22	16	22
Albion	14	6	3	5	22	18	21
Montrose	14	5	2	7	12	27	17
East Stirling	14	4	1	9	13	29	13
Elgin	15	2	1	12	16	29	7

STRIKER TISOR

Kandol will make his debut for his eighth club when he lines up for Leeds at Plymouth today.

After arriving from Barnet, initially on loan, he said: "I've been up and down and played at a few places, but this is the right move at the right time."

Reed in a little sideline

■ by PAUL BROWN

CHARLTON boss Les Reed has revealed he is moonlighting - as a physio for his son's football team.

Reed gets up early every Sunday to help 14-year-old Andy's under-15 team, Bishop's Stortford.

After the Addicks have faced Everton today, he will be back on the touchline tomorrow for the Mid-Herts League match against Fairlands.

Reed said: "I run the line for them as a physio. I just help out because I find it relaxing. They must be the only club in the country with a Premiership manager as a physio."

"My son's always giving me advice. He's been busy on his PlayStation recently looking at players he wants me to sign."

BARCLAYS PREMIERSHIP

TEAM TALK

Aston Villa v Middlesbrough

VILLA striker Chris Sutton (calf) is a doubt so Milan Baros stands by. Midfielders Gavin McCann and Stiliyan Petrov are available after missing the draw at Wigan. Defender Aaron Hughes has recovered from a groin problem. ENGLAND winger Stewart Downing is rated 50-50 due to the groin problem which kept him out of Boro's 0-0 draw with Liverpool. George Boateng should make it after limping off and Andrew Davies (ankle) is expected to be fit. Last season: Aston Villa 2 Middlesbrough 3. Referee: P Walton.

Bolton v Arsenal (5.15)

SKIPPER Kevin Nolan returns to the Bolton squad after missing last weekend's defeat at Everton to attend the birth of his first child. Quinton Fortune is also available after a recent groin injury. THIERRY HENRY has been ruled out for Arsenal because of neck injury. Fellow forward Robin van Persie is suspended following a fifth yellow card of the season against Liverpool. Tomas Rosicky (hamstring) and defender William Gallas (thigh) are not available. Last season: Bolton 2 Arsenal 0. Referee: M Dean.

Charlton v Everton (12.45)

CHARLTON look set to again be without striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. Full-back Djimi Traore is in contention after his recovery from a broken leg and midfielder Amady Faye returns from suspension, but defender Souleymane Diawara (hamstring) remains a doubt. EVERTON will have James McFadden back from a two-match suspension and manager David Moyes can pair either him or James Beattie with Andy Johnson in attack. Simon Davies is back from a thigh injury. Last season: Charlton 0 Everton 0. Referee: A Wiley.

Fulham v Reading

MIDFIELDER Michael Brown is close to a recall to the Fulham starting line-up after a stint on the sidelines with an ankle injury. Papa Bouba Diop is a slight doubt with a thigh problem. Midfielder Simon Elliott is set to miss up to four months after an Achilles problem was diagnosed. READING have no new injury worries after winger Glen Little shrugged off the foot problem that forced him to miss training earlier in the week. Last season: No corresponding fixture. Referee: D Gallagher.

Liverpool v Man City

RAFA BENITEZ expects to have Craig Bellamy in his squad. The Wales striker is involved in a court case in Cardiff but Liverpool boss Benitez is blighted by a catalogue of injury problems and needs the player. DIETMAR HAMANN returns to Manchester City's squad. He has finally recovered from a thigh injury that has kept him out for over a month, although the best the German can probably hope for is a place on the bench. Last season: Liverpool 1 Man City 0. Referee: R Styles.

West Ham v Sheffield Utd

BOSS Alan Pardew has no new injury worries and is likely to name an unchanged team for West Ham's first game since Eggert Magnusson's £85m takeover this week. SHEFFIELD UNITED defender Leigh Bromby, who has missed the last four weeks with a hamstring strain, could step into the squad as David Sommeil is out with an ankle problem. Danny Webber (hamstring), Michael Tonge (ankle) and Chris Armstrong (knee) are all still out. Last season: No corresponding fixture. Referee: M Halsey.

TOMORROW

Man Utd v Chelsea (4)

SIR ALEX FERGUSON has no fresh injury worries. Rio Ferdinand had been a doubt after picking up a minor foot injury in Tuesday's Champions League defeat at Celtic, but has been passed fit and will take his place in what could be an unchanged line-up. CHELSEA should have Michael Ballack (calf) and Didier Drogba (ankle) fit. Frank Lampard will return to the squad after missing the Werder Bremen game through suspension. Last season: Man Utd 1 Chelsea 0. Referee: H Webb.

Newcastle v Portsm'th (1.30)

KIERON DYER, Obafemi Martins and Scott Parker are set to return for Newcastle. Nicky Butt and Emre should shake off knocks and Giuseppe Rossi is available after being ineligible for the UEFA Cup. GARY O'NEIL (thigh) and Benjani (knee) are fit to return to the Portsmouth squad. But Matt Taylor (virus) is still a doubt and Dejan Stefanovic will continue at left-back. Andy Cole has an Achilles injury and could be out for a few weeks. Last season: Newcastle 2 Portsmouth 0. Referee: M Riley.

Tottenham v Wigan

JERMAINE JENAS has a calf injury and is a concern for Tottenham. Aaron Lennon, Pascal Chimbonda and Teemu Tainio made comebacks from injury in the UEFA Cup win against Bayer Leverkusen and they could feature at White Hart Lane against the Latics. WIGAN striker Emile Heskey is again a doubt after missing the last three weeks with a calf injury, and although back in training, is still not 100 per cent fit. Last season: Tottenham 2 Wigan 2. Referee: M Clattenburg.

Kanu has heart of gold

by PETER WHITE

could defy the odds. A decade on, the gangly striker has rediscovered the form that made him such a popular figure in more than 200 games for Arsenal.

A free signing from West Brom in the summer, he has emerged as one of the key figures in Pompey's exceptional start to the season.

Faulty

And his eight goals have made him the Premiership's joint-leading scorer, alongside Chelsea's Didier Drogba.

Yet in the autumn of 1996 he was diagnosed as having a faulty aortic valve which opened normally but did not close properly, causing a leak. It

was a life-threatening condition and, according to Kanu, Italian doctors shook their heads and insisted his career was over.

He recalled: "It was just a normal check-up that found it but it came as a huge shock because during the Olympics, even though it had been really hot, I did not have a problem."

"One minute you feel totally healthy, the next you are told your career is over."

When all seemed lost, specialists in the US said they could fix the problem and told Kanu there was a good chance he could resume his career.

The operation was a complete success, allowing him to carry on with Inter before making a £4.5m move to Arsenal in January 1999.



FIGHTER: Kanu is back to his best

SERIOUSLY football

Luque spells it out for Roeder

PLAY ME OR I'M OFF

by IAN MURTAGH

IMPATIENT Albert Luque last night warned Newcastle boss Glenn Roeder: Pick me or I'm out of here.

The Spaniard played the entire 90 minutes in the Toon's 2-1 UEFA Cup win against Celta Vigo – only his fourth start this term – and he has urged Roeder to stick with him for tomorrow's clash at home to Portsmouth.

Luque even hinted he'll demand a move if he's still scratching around for first-team football when the transfer window re-opens in the New Year: "I've waited a year and a half but there's been no change in my situation," he said.

"I need to be playing regularly and will wait another month and there must be a change by then. I've had 20 minutes in one game, maybe 30 in another, but I have not had a real run of games to get properly match fit."

"It has been very difficult for me and, if it is still the same, then it may be better both for Newcastle and me for me to go."

With Damien Duff ruled out for up to six weeks following surgery, Luque has told his manager he's just the man to occupy the left-wing slot.

Happy

"Maybe he will keep me in the team and let me play in that position," added the £10m forward.

"It is a role I know well having played there for Deportivo and Spain."

"Maybe if I get the chance to play 90 minutes for two or three games, you will see a better Albert Luque because the fans haven't seen the best of me."

"I am happy at Newcastle but footballers are only really happy when they're in the team. *"If I'm not in it, it would be better to take another option."*

Despite his own bullishness, Luque did himself few favours against Celta Vigo on Thursday night, missing an easy chance after just 20 seconds and tiring badly in the second half. And the odds are



ROEDER: Ultimatum

that, with Oba Martins and Kieron Dyer set to start tomorrow, he'll be one of those who make way.

The Geordies are without a league win in eight games and haven't beaten Premiership opposition on home soil since the opening day of the season.

Keeper Shay Given accepts the slump needs to be arrested quickly.

Battle

"We are definitely in a relegation battle," said the Irishman.

"We are fourth bottom so if you don't realise you are in a relegation fight there is something badly wrong."

"We have started off very poorly in the league and badly need a win. Portsmouth are flying but it's all about us."

"We've got to start the game with a high tempo and really get at them."



GIVE ME A LUQUE IN: The Toon star wants to start

It's Egg pie 'n mash

by PAUL BROWN

EGGERT Magnusson has been told to expect a traditional East End welcome after completing his £108m takeover of West Ham.

The club's new Icelandic owner will swap pickled herring for pie and mash as he takes in his first match at Upton Park today, against Sheffield United.

The 59-year-old, who met the team for the first time yesterday, will also get a game - with manager Alan Pardew and the staff in training.

Stomach

Pardew said: "I will be inviting him to have a kick-around."

"He tells me that he plays football three times a week and you can see that he is a sprightly character."

"He is certainly enthusiastic about what is in store for him."

"He has been enthused by what he has found."

"I think he will get the traditional East End welcome, but I don't know if he will stomach the pies and mash afterwards!"

"Our fans will be particularly overjoyed that he is a football person coming in here, with the traditions that we have. He has said all the right things."

SERIOUSLY football

Blades boss in threat to Hammer rival

WARNO'S A WHACKO



MADCAP Neil Warnock has threatened to whack Alan Pardew if the West Ham boss repeats the goal celebrations that led to his infamous spat with Arsene Wenger.

Pardew and Wenger found themselves in a shoving match after the Hammers boss taunted his Arsenal rival following his side's late winner at Upton Park on Bonfire Night.

Both have been charged by the FA with improper conduct and Pardew knows he could be hit with a hefty fine and touchline ban if found guilty at a hearing.

But according to Warnock, Pardew could also feel the full force of his rage if he adopts the same approach with the Blades boss when the two sides meet at Upton Park today.

The duo have not always seen eye-to-eye as a result of a bust-up when Pardew was at Reading and both were Championship rivals. They fell out following a game at Bramall Lane, when Pardew refused to shake

by JEREMY CROSS

Warnock's hand at the final whistle and stormed on to the team bus.

Warnock insists they are now big mates again after making-up and burying the hatchet. He said: "We had a few words a while ago, but we got on very well now."

"Alan is someone who I respect and when we go to London for games he always lets us use their training ground."

Chin

"Mind you, if he celebrates like that against us I will chin him!"

"But I'd probably do it down the tunnel where no-one can see - I'm a lot more experienced about these things now."

Warnock is known for losing his cool on the touchline himself but he thinks Pardew is the one who should be learning to chill out.

He added: "I've told Alan the needs to calm down on the touchline! I can't understand these volatile managers."



SPARK: Pardew's celebration

SLAPPER: Warnock has threatened to smack Pardew if there's a repeat of his antics against Arsenal

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wooly's world

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Scho's out of place

MANCHESTER United's Paul Scholes says he was tempted by England coach Steve McClaren's determined bid to persuade him to return to international football.

This begs the question, where would Scholes have played for England?

McClaren has a big enough problem sorting out his midfield to also bring Scholes back.

With Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard still trying to play together, Owen Hargreaves a first choice when fit, Aaron Lennon an emerging talent and Joe Cole impressive, where would Scholes play?

LOTS of questions this week. Why did United captain Gary Neville allow Louis Saha to take that penalty at Celtic if he knew the striker's head was all over the place? And why, away from home in Europe, do United use a 4-3-3 formation with Wayne Rooney wide on the left? A waste of talent.

Don't be bad Egg

LOTS of promises from West Ham's new Icelandic owner Eggert Magnusson.

He says Alan Pardew's job is safe and that there will be no upheaval at Upton Park, just plenty of investment.

I just hope he is true to his word. And that he allows West Ham to maintain their traditions and East End values and not turn them into a money-making machine.



I LOST count of the number of Celtic fans who collared me in Glasgow this week.

"What about that Wooly, fantastic wasn't it? Great game, great result."

Actually no, it was a poor game, poor standard and a shadow of what we expected from the so-called Battle of Britain.

Arrogant Manchester United had only themselves to blame for losing while Celtic, at times, lacked real belief they could win the much-anticipated Champions League tie.

The fact they did allowed their fans – celebrating qualification for the last 16 of the Champions League – to ask the ongoing question: "Where would we finish in the Premiership?"

And, after that: "Are we as good as your so-called big lot in the south?"

Sorry guys, again the answer is negative. Celtic is a big club in Scotland. In England, you would be a side bidding to get into the UEFA Cup.

You would be on the same level as the

English clubs currently enjoying success in Europe's second-rate competition – Blackburn, Spurs and Newcastle.

You are the Aston Villa of Scotland. Now, there is a similarity with the common denominator Martin O'Neill.

The former Bhoys manager is enjoying success on his return to the job, proving himself a top manager by getting the best out of the Villa players who had grown disillusioned under David O'Leary.

O'Neill, however, knows that without top players Villa's level will remain around the UEFA, League and FA Cup.

Quality

At Celtic he fell just short – as Gordon Strachan will do – because of the lack of real quality when it comes to winning the Champions League or, yes, the Premiership. *If Celtic were allowed to play in English football, which I believe they should, we could end once and for all the debate about how good they really are.*

At the moment I'd say Celtic would finish around 10th. Also, sorry Celtic fans, had Tuesday been a sudden death battle with United, I don't think you would have still been celebrating on Wednesday morning.

COCK-A-HOOP:
Shunsuke Nakamura celebrates his Celtic winner against United

IS WOOLY RIGHT?

Text DSWOOLY followed by a space and your comments to 82100. Texts cost 25p plus your normal network rate. Or e-mail me on brian.woolnough@dailystar.co.uk

Show us a little respect please

IS it too much to ask the Manchester United and Chelsea players to set the right example in their highly-explosive clash at Old Trafford tomorrow? Yes, there is so much at stake.

Pride, possibly the outcome of the Premiership and the battle to boast "we are the biggest club in the country."

More significantly, however, at stake is their ability to prove top players – and the two

managers – can get through 90 minutes with respect for the officials.

This season has been an ugly catalogue of dissent, confrontation, cheating, diving, managers abusing and criticising the referee and touchline bitterness.

If football is not careful feuding players will scare off referees. In the end there will be none to try to control their spite.

So, come on United and Chelsea, behave and entertain, please.

THE Queen says feuding Premiership players should be sent off if they misbehave. I agree with her.

LIVERPOOL manager Rafael Benitez says he deserves more respect. I agree with him.

It'll be boo Peter

CHELSEA chief executive Peter Kenyon says he expects them one day soon to take over from Manchester United as the biggest club in the world.

That should guarantee Kenyon a good reception when he takes his place in the directors' box at Old Trafford tomorrow afternoon.

Kenyon is still looked upon as a pariah at United for walking out and taking up a similar post at Stamford Bridge.

PLONKER OF THE WEEK

STEVE HARMISON for that quite dreadful, inept and confidence-shattering first delivery of the Ashes that ended up at second slip.

Add to that England admitting they were racked with nerves before the first day and you have the already doom and gloom picture of the bid to retain the Ashes. After Harmison's

shocking opening, no one was surprised by the goings on Down Under. As I said on Wednesday, the first ball, first hour, first day is vital. England just rolled over. Harmison gave the Aussies a lift and sent out the message to the fans propping open their eyes at home: 'Oh, not again.'

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**SERIOUSLY
football****Benitez demands more from skipper**

I'LL MAKE GERRARD A RIGHT HERO



RAF 'N READY:
Liverpool boss
Rafa Benitez
(above) believes
skipper Steven
Gerrard can be an
even better player

RAFA BENITEZ admits he is at odds with Steven Gerrard and is demanding more from the Liverpool skipper.

Kop boss Benitez insists he is not picking a fight with the England midfielder but believes Gerrard is selling himself short.

The Spaniard has consistently answered critics who claim that he has played Gerrard out of position on the right of midfield by pointing out that he scored 23 goals in that role last season.

But with Momo Sissoko ruled out, Gerrard has been switched to the centre and bagged the opener against PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday, just his second of the campaign.

Benitez said: "I agree with Gerrard.

"He is improving. He is playing better.

Best

"But I don't agree in that he is not as close as he thinks to his best level.

"He doesn't know maybe how good he is and I think he can improve.

"This is a positive message, not a negative message.

"I think he can play better because he is really good.

"He can do a lot of things as a top-class player - winning it in the air, scoring goals, creating chances, passing the ball, tackling. Everything.

"The reason I agree with him is that he is improving but I think he can get better because he is really good."

Benitez will make a late

■ by CHRIS HARPER

decision on striker Craig Bellamy after the Wales star spent the last two days in a Cardiff court on a charge of assaulting two young women.

Benitez arranged for Bellamy to train with Cardiff while in his home city.

He insisted: "Craig is under consideration. We need to decide if he will be involved or not.

"Maybe it could be good for him to come back and focus on football.

"But maybe what is happening might affect his concentration.

Need

"But I need to decide on the balance of the team.

"We have a lot of injuries and I have explained to him that we might need to use him on the left side of midfield in this game.

"I don't like to use Craig as a winger as he prefers to play as a striker."



Pearce: I'd love to Kop first win

STUART PEARCE never tasted success at Liverpool in an 18-year playing career with Coventry, Nottingham Forest, Newcastle and West Ham.

So the Manchester City boss had no hesitation in saying: "It would be a real feather in my cap to win there as a manager."

There is one obvious difficulty

■ by BILL THORNTON

facing Pearce and City at Anfield today - they haven't won away from home this season.

In fact, City have won just one away match in 12 months, at Aston Villa last April.

Liverpool's away form is almost as bad, which is why

Pearce could say: "Apart from anything else, victory would put us above Liverpool in the Premiership."

Although Liverpool have already blown their bid to challenge for the title, Pearce is well aware of the formidable task facing his players.

"Their home form is excellent.

The disappointment is their away form in the Premiership, similar to ourselves," he said.

Pearce revealed he and his staff have left no stone unturned in an attempt to earn a precious first three points on away soil.

"We've looked at every aspect of what we do," he added. "We feel the preparation is spot on."

It's all in the Pasc - Jewell

PAUL JEWELL has made peace with Pascal Chimbona on the eve of Wigan's visit to Spurs.

The Latics boss was outraged with the defender for slapping in a transfer request just minutes after the defeat at Arsenal on the final day of last season.

Chimbona, 27, was also blanked by some of his team-mates who were furious the French World Cup star chose to ask for a move in the Highbury dressing-room.

Cross

It sparked a war of words between Jewell and Chimbona before the player was finally sold to Spurs for a profit of £4m.

But as the pair prepare to cross paths for the first time since his move, Jewell insists the episode is in the past.

He said: "Maybe Pascal regrets how he finished it here but I suspect he was wrongly advised.

"I don't wish Pascal any harm other than I hope he doesn't do well against us this weekend. He did

■ by DAVE ARMITAGE

exceptionally well for us. He was a cult hero from the first game he played for us but things move on and in Emmerson Boyce we have a very good replacement."

Meanwhile, frustrated Spurs boss Martin Jol has given his strikers a kick up the backside and told them to finish chances or risk finishing him off.

Jol is tearing out what is left of his hair at the number of chances his Tottenham players are chucking away.

The Spurs chief has called on £11m Dimitar Berbatov, Robbie Keane and Jermain Defoe - heading the charts with two league goals - to show that they are not soft touchers.

"We've got to score - that's the most important thing," said Jol.

"It doesn't matter who scores but we are making it difficult for ourselves.

"They are all great finishers but it worries me when they are not going in."

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**SERIOUSLY
football****Villa boss set to go window shopping****MARTIN'S EURO
MISSION**

MARTIN O'NEILL is set to hit mega-rich chairman Randy Lerner with his January wish list as he attempts to deliver European football at Aston Villa.

American billionaire Lerner will meet Villa boss O'Neill next week and thrash out plans to fund a major New Year spending spree of around £15m.

O'Neill has identified Jermain Defoe, Robbie Keane and James Milner as potential targets for the January transfer window.

Lerner is desperate to bring back European football to Villa Park and is ready to build on O'Neill's impressive reign by assisting him in his revolution.

And while O'Neill is aware that he will face a battle

■ by JOHN PERCY

against his rival Premiership bosses to land his targets he knows that sustaining his dazzling start is vital in helping him succeed.

He said: "The owner is coming over for the Manchester City game on Wednesday and I intend to give him my plan as to how we will look to move forward in the immediate future.

Plan

"My thinking is very much whatever you are going to try and do to strengthen the squad.

"I think the medium-term is obviously to try and get back into European football.

"His [Lerner] plan is to bring in players capable of taking us into European football. We have 22 points

on the board and I think the next couple of weeks will be major to it.

"By January there is a very definite possibility of trying to do something. We have nine games to negotiate between now and then.

"By the time you arrive there, it might all be too late. What we have to do is keep hanging in there."

But the Villa chief has promised he will not fritter away Lerner's cash by being forced into panic buys.

He added: "Players might not be available. If I did buy, it would be a means to an end. I can't imagine myself going and signing someone on a long-term deal that I didn't think was what we were looking for for the next three or four years."

■ **NICE LITTLE LERNER:**
Martin O'Neill is set to splash Randy Lerner's cash in January

I'll do a runner – Beattie

■ by CHRIS HARPER

EVERTON striker James Beattie has struggling Charlton in his sights as he bids to get his Goodison career back on track.

The £6m star lost his title as Everton's record signing when Andy Johnson arrived in the summer for £2.6m more – and he has lost his place as the club's main striker to his big pal into the bargain.

But an injury to Tim Cahill, who has been used to support Johnson, has handed Beattie another chance.

"Obviously we would like Tim to be fit and scoring goals like he has been doing," Beattie said.

Force

"But when one door closes another one opens, and it is my chance to get a run in the side and hopefully I will start scoring."

He hopes that he and Johnson can now become a powerful attacking force.

Beattie added: "Our friendship has blossomed, and even though our partnership hasn't blossomed I don't think really that it has been given the chance to because the gaffer has preferred to play one up front.

"Hopefully we can now get a run of games together and show what we are really all about."

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Elliott shakes Wolves



CRACKER: Johnson (right) after goal

STEPHEN ELLIOTT saved Roy Keane's bacon to stop Mick McCarthy sending the rookie Sunderland boss packing for a second time.

With just 10 minutes left on the clock, it looked as if Jemal Johnson's first-half wonder strike was set to condemn Keane to a sixth Championship defeat as Black Cats manager.

But then Elliott's deflected shot from 12 yards after a goalmouth scramble ensured this battle between the two former Republic of Ireland foes ended in a stalemate.

Old sparring partners Keane and McCarthy publicly shook hands before the match as both bosses were nearly blinded by a flurry of flashlights.

But although Sunderland chief Keane may have made his peace, he was still desperate to put one over his ex-Republic of Ireland boss, following their monstrous

by JOHN PERCY
Wolves 1 Sunderland 1

row four years ago at the World Cup in Japan.

But before Elliott's late saver, it looked as if McCarthy would hammer it home that management isn't a stroll in the park.

Keane's side nearly took a crazy seventh-minute lead when Jamie Clapham's attempted clearance hit Karl Henry and the ball rebounded into the path of Grant Leadbitter who was denied by a superb save from Matt Murray.

Hungry

McCarthy will never forget his nightmare last season at Sunderland as the Black Cats slumped to an inevitable relegation.

So the Wolves boss was just as hungry for three points, with Darren Ward saving the visitors with a stunning

stop from ex-Sunderland star Jody Craddock's header. Daniel Jones and Henry then both went close with fierce efforts as the home side dominated.

Wolves were convinced they had taken the lead five minutes before the break when Craddock's volley looked to have crept over the line despite the efforts of Ward and Dean Whitehead.

But they finally sneaked in front in spectacular fashion with Johnson powering home an excellent 25-yard drive into the top corner.

Jay Bothroyd could have made the points safe as the hour but his powerful shot was kept out by the impressive Ward.

Wolves keeper Murray was so underused that he should have stayed at home for a curry with the missus. Until, of course, Elliott earned Sunderland a share of the spoils.

SERIOUSLY football

Diouf falls over himself to start row

ROONEY DIVES MORE THAN ME

by GEORGE SCOTT

EL-HADJI DIOUF admits he's a serial diver – but insists he's no worse than Wayne Rooney.

Bolton's Senegalese striker is one of the most unpopular players in the Premiership for his on-pitch antics.

But while he admits he loves winding up opposition fans and thrives on being booed he thinks he is unfairly singled out when it comes to diving.

"Every player dives, not just me," he said. "If you see Rooney, how many times does he dive to get a penalty? I get a hard time because it is me."

"The best footballer for me is very clever. I'm not going to leave my foot there for the guy to break my legs."

"Sometimes I need to dive before the guy is coming. Sometimes the referee gives me a free-kick, sometimes he doesn't. This is just part of football."

Reputation

"I accept that sometimes I don't get them because I've gone down without being touched but that is not the case all the time."

"Like every player in the Premiership, I dive. How many penalties does Rooney get?"

"The referees can't see everything because the game is so quick but I think my reputation goes against me."

"Sometimes the referee doesn't give me the free-kick or the penalty because of my reputation, not because it wasn't a foul."

Arsenal visit today and Diouf claimed Thierry Henry has told him the Gunners hate going to the Reebok Stadium.

Diouf said: "I know Arsenal's players do not like coming here because Thierry Henry tells me that when I speak to him. And I know Arsene Wenger feels the same because he told my agent."

"It is usually too cold for them but they also know they will get a hard game."



JEER UP:
Diouf just loves the sound of opposing fans booing him

Theo to be unleashed

by ALISTAIR GRANT

THEO WALCOTT is set to be thrown in for only his second Arsenal League start today – at bogey team Bolton.

The 17-year-old, who would replace suspended Dutch star Robin van Persie, came on as a sub to inspire Arsenal's 3-1 Champions League win over Hamburg on Tuesday night.

Wenger said he would sleep on the decision, revealing: "It depends on my inspiration overnight. He's getting closer and I can understand the demand to see him."

Handicap

Wenger is adamant Bolton won't bully Arsenal at the Reebok, like last season when they lost there in the League and FA Cup.

Thierry Henry misses out and Wenger joked: "Henry has an inflammation of the neck, which is quite a handicap when you have to play at Bolton!"

"They're more direct than usual but we're ready for what we face. My players were younger last year and we lost away games when we were outmuscled."

"We can deal better with what we face and we're ready for Bolton."

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Bank of Scotland International Championships (Glasgow) – men's singles 1st rd: A. Ghassefi (Eng) bt A. Ellis (Eng) 21-15, 21-14; R. Ouseph (Eng) bt S. Katsen (Ger) 21-11, 23-20; N. Rice (Eng) bt J. Frolich (Cze) 21-19, 21-14

GOLF

MasterCard Masters (Melbourne) – 2nd rd leaders (GB & NI unless stated): 133 A. Pike (Aus), 135 J. Rose, 136 K. Barnes (Aus), 137 T. Carolan (Aus), J. Sander (Aus), G. Chalmers (Aus), S. Bowditch (Aus), S. Khan; 138 R. Jacquelin (Fra); 139 A. Baddeley (Aus), C. Sumsion (Spa), P. Wilson (Aus), N. Pines (Aus), P. Lonard (Aus), 140 A. Butterfield, G. Simpson (Aus), N. Green (Aus), R. Allenby (Aus), C. Parry (Aus); 141 P. Casey, J. Lyle (Aus), R. Green (Aus), P. Fowler (Aus), N. O'Hern; 142 A. Price (Aus), P. Nolan (Aus), N. Dougherty, P. Senior (Aus), H. Epstein, A. Bland (Aus), S. Dartnell (Aus), P. O'Malley (Aus), S. Appleby (Aus); 143 J. Molesley (Aus), B. Chant (Aus), D. McGarran, J. James, M. Fraser (Aus). Selected others: 146 P. Price; 147 M. Campbell (NZ); 149 S. Wakelield; 150 B. Lane.

Casio World Open (Kochi, Hiroshima, Japan) – 2nd rd leaders (Jpn unless stated): 134 T. Harauchi; 135 J.M. Singh (Ind); 136 H. Kase; 137 A. Yano, T. Muto, S. Yokota; 138 T. Kondo, Y. Ueda, S. Tajima, D. Maruyama, K. Lin (Tai), S. Katayama.

RUGBY UNION

Guinness Premiership
Bristol 14 Gloucester 12

Bristol – T. Regan, Pen: Hill, DG: Hill, Strang, Gloucester – Pen: Walker 4, HT 13-8, At: 1,916

Sale 17 Harlequins 12

Sale – T. Lund, Pen: Larrechea 3, DG: Larrechea, Harlequins – Pen: Jarvis 4, HT 14-3, At: 8,616

P W D L F A B P

Bristol 9 7 1 205 135 4 34

Gloucester 9 7 1 225 156 3 31

Sale 6 0 3 207 173 2 26

Wasp 5 0 3 222 163 6 26

Leicester 8 5 1 205 179 2 21

Saracens 4 1 3 226 161 4 22

Harlequins 9 3 0 6 178 192 4 16

Newcastle 8 3 0 5 154 202 2 14

Northampton 8 3 0 5 150 203 2 14

London Irish 8 3 0 5 138 182 1 13

Bath 8 2 0 6 167 235 4 12

Worcester 8 0 0 8 123 219 3 3

TODAY'S DIARY

FOOTBALL

(all 3pm kick-off)

Tennents Scottish Cup

East Stirling v Stirling

FA Trophy 3rd qualifying rd: AFC

Wimbledon v Eastleigh, Alfreton Town

v Harrogate Town, Ashford Town v

Thurrock, Banbury v Lewes,

Basingstoke v Bedford Town, Bath v

Totting & Mitcham, Billericay v

Managersfield, Bishop's Cleeve v

Molesey, Blyth Spartans v Worcester,

Bradford P v Nuneaton, Bournemouth

v Scarborough, Cambridge City v AFC

Sudbury, Chasetown v Hyde, Cray

Wanderers v Yeading, Didcot Town v

Newport County, Droylsden v Heston

Olympic, Farnborough v Maidenhead

Utd, Gainsborough v Stalybridge,

Gloucester v Eastbourne Borough,

Hayward & W v Team Bath, Hay

Fisher Athletic, Hemel Hempstead v

Evesham, Heybridge v Bognor Regis,

Hinckley Utd v Ilkeston, Hucknall v

Barrow, Kettering v Clitheroe,

Lancaster City v Redditch, Leigh RMI v

Cannell Land, Merthyr v Walsby,

Moor Green v Woodley Sports,

Northwood v Histon, Salisbury v

Enfield, Skelmersdale Utd v Farnley

Celtic, Stamford v Witton Albion,

Sutton Utd v Braintree, Vauxhall

Motors v Worktop, Welling v

Dorchester, Weston-Super-Mare v

Cirencester, Windsor & Eton v King's

Lynn, Worthington v Gateshead.

5 FOR FUN

1 Paul Sturrock, 2 Perry

Freshwater, 3 Clive Allen, 4 Wayne

Gretzky, 5 Scotland.

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League (all 6pm): Edinburgh v

Coventry, Hull v Manchester, Sheffield

v Nottingham

MOTOR RACING

A1GP (Sepang, Malaysia) – rd 4 of

12.

RUGBY UNION

International

Ireland v Pacific Islands (2.45pm)

Guinness Premiership

London Irish v Northampton (3pm)

Saracens v Worcester (2pm)

Wasp v Leicester (3pm)

YESTERDAY'S SPORTSWORLD

CROSS: 1 Spark, 4 Light, 7 In A,

8 Emlyn, 9 Nieto, 10 Dunn, 11

Craven, 14 Reason, 15 Bull, 18 Brett,

20 Mahon, 21 One, 22 Numan, 23

Singh, DOWN: 1 Sead, 2 Atlanta, 3

King, 4 Lanark, 5 Gee, 6 Troon, 12

Vaughan, 13 Bolton, 14 Robin, 16

Lynch, 17 Ames, 19 Elm.

5 FOR FUN

1 Paul Sturrock, 2 Perry

Freshwater, 3 Clive Allen, 4 Wayne

Gretzky, 5 Scotland.

UEFA probe beer attack on Morten

UEFA have opened an investigation after Blackburn midfielder Morten Gamst Pedersen had a plastic beer cup thrown at him during the UEFA Cup game against Feyenoord in Rotterdam on Thursday.

Pedersen said: "I got beer in my face and had sticky eyes afterwards. It could have been worse but it should not happen. Of course you think what might have happened if it was something else, like a hard thing."

A UEFA spokesman said: "It will be investigated and is likely to be dealt with by the control and disciplinary panel on December 7."

**SERIOUSLY
football****OLD TRAFFORD SHOWDOWN: Chelsea star hits****FERGIE'S
SCARED
OF SPREE**

by BILL THORNTON

MANCHESTER United boss Sir Alex Ferguson is worried Chelsea will go on another spending spree if they lose tomorrow.

Asked how he thought Chelsea would react to going six points adrift, Fergie laughed: "They'll probably go and buy six players in January!"

"First, we have to get ourselves into that position. Certainly, this is a great opportunity for us. In the past two seasons we have relied on other teams doing us a favour by taking points off them.

"This time, we have the chance to do ourselves the big favour. The one thing I think is certain, is that they will be our main challengers and we will be theirs."

With his side in the hunt for their first title since 2003, Fergie said: "It isn't lost on us, that in the past two seasons, Chelsea have gone nine, 10 points clear of us and that has been too difficult to peg back.

"But, this time, we have come out of the blocks quickly and, for the first time when we meet, we are in front of them.

Spirit

"So, we have the prospect of going six points clear and then having to chase us, rather than the other way around.

"This should be a fantastic game, with some great players on the pitch. We have achieved good consistency, which you don't normally get from young players.

"So, there is a great maturity developing and there is a fantastic team spirit, which I think is helping us more than anything."

The United boss is still mulling over whether spot-flop Louis Saha will keep the job tomorrow. "We haven't decided on that yet," he said.

Asked about Saha's state of mind, following his 89th-minute miss against Celtic on Tuesday, Fergie insisted: "He's fine. He's OK."

Ferguson also did not believe Neil Lennon's claim that Gary Neville had told him he thought Saha was about to miss. "No, I think Celtic were high on adrenaline after that win, as they had every right to be," he said.

Ferguson pleaded with both sides to give referee Howard Webb breathing space at Old Trafford tomorrow.

"I hope we don't see players crowding around the referee, as we have at some matches recently," he said. "We want to let him get on with it and give him a chance."

SHEVCHENKO

POINTING TO GLORY: Frank Lampard says mega money buys Andriy Shevchenko and Michael Ballack (left) will do their talking on the pitch

**TOP SIX**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	13	11	1	1	29	6	34
Chelsea	13	10	1	2	23	7	31
Portsmouth	13	7	2	4	19	11	23
Arsenal	12	6	4	2	20	7	22
A Villa	13	5	7	1	15	9	22
Bolton	13	6	3	4	12	12	21

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back at taunts from United's Portuguese ace

BARCLAYS
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RONNIE

Our big buys
will deliver
roars Lamps

FRANK LAMPARD has backed Chelsea's multi-million-pound big guns to ram cheeky Cristiano Ronaldo's taunts back down his throat.

The Blues spent a fortune on Andriy Shevchenko and Michael Ballack this summer – and Ronaldo believes they've made little difference to the champions.

But Lampard claims that is rubbish and backed his two misfiring team-mates to prove the Manchester United winger wrong in tomorrow's showdown at Old Trafford.

Counted

He said: "I think these big games are the ones when you need your big players to stand up and be counted. I think big players thrive on these games.

"I'm sure those two will do because it's the type of player they are. Sheva is a fantastic player and I have untold respect for him.

"I had that before he came and I still have that now. I think he's scored three in his last four or five games, so he's in good form."

"He's come to another country and you have to adapt a bit but he's a fantastic player. He's playing well.

"He and Michael Ballack are world-renowned, top players because they perform in big games. I hope it's the sort of game that will bring the best out of Sheva.

"We've got nothing to prove to anyone,

by PAUL BROWN

especially players of the calibre of Ballack and Shevchenko, with what they've done in their careers. They will do their talking on the pitch."

Shevchenko has scored only three times in the Premiership despite costing Chelsea £30m, while Ballack picks up £120,000-a-week in wages but has struggled.

Lampard admits Shevchenko hit rock bottom when he went nine games without a goal earlier this season, but claims the Ukrainian has turned the corner.

He said: "He works hard on the training ground and when he wasn't scoring you could see it hurt him because he's a goalscorer and it has to hurt you.

"That's why he's so good, because he wants to score goals, but he's also a team player and I think he's realised the work-rate that's needed in England.

Taste

"He's working very hard and goals are going to keep coming for him. I think he and Michael have had the taste for where they're playing now."

Ronaldo also claimed Chelsea would fall apart without Jose Mourinho cracking the whip at Stamford Bridge.

But Lampard reckons the same could be said of Sir Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford after all the silverware the Scot has collected in a glittering career.

The Blues star wants Mourinho to stay at Chelsea as long as Ferguson has at United so the Blues can enjoy a similar spell of dominance.

He said: "Of course we want Mourinho to stay for a long time. We love playing under him.

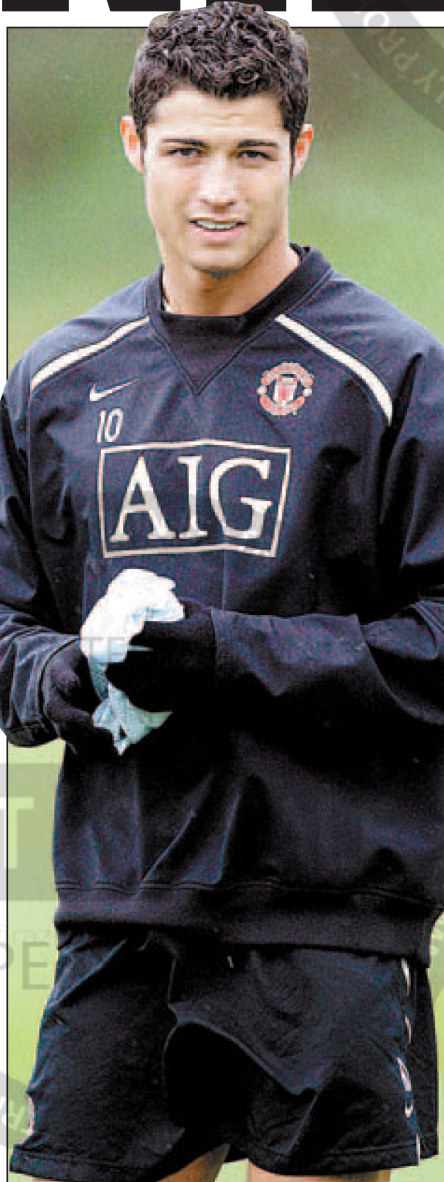
Target

"You have to ask whether United would have been so successful without their manager.

"It has to be our aim to overtake United. They've set the target in terms of results on the pitch and success off the pitch.

"If we win a third title, I'll feel we'll have gone some way towards toppling them – but we would have to be successful over a longer period to say we've done what they've done.

"United have raised their level because I think it's their best start for some



TAUNTS: Ronaldo rapped big-money buys

You Blues
are havin'
a laugh ...

From Back Page

with a jibe about United's attractive style of play. Kenyon admitted it was "critically important to attract people worldwide because a key component is building a fan base."

Ferguson said: "I don't know how you do surveys these days, whether we have 15 million or 500 million fans worldwide.

"The one thing I do know is that we have all these supporters because we do entertain."

"And we will never change from that. That is the great history of this club."

"I can only go off my personal experience and, everywhere I go with the team, there is a mass of people surrounding the players and wearing United strips."

History

"I don't know what the barometer on that is and I don't suppose anyone can be accurate about how many supporters we actually have."

"What I do know is that we have a rich history. I don't think anyone can deny that."

Asked if he thought former United supremo Kenyon's remarks had been deliberately timed three days before the clash between the clubs, Ferguson said: "I don't know. It certainly isn't going to bother me. I know Peter."

"My main concern is that there will be 76,000 in that stadium on Sunday – and they'd better shout!"

"When they are fired up they are the best. And they need to be fired up on Sunday because this match is very important for them, too."

Roo's in
the top
league

From Back Page

Trafford until 2012. The deal catapults Rooney into the top-earner bracket in the Premiership, alongside team-mate Rio Ferdinand and Thierry Henry, at Arsenal, and just behind Chelsea's big earners Andriy Shevchenko and Michael Ballack.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson had urged club owners, the Glazer family, to recognise Rooney as crucial to United's success over the next few years. The Glazers have done that, giving Rooney a three-year extension to the deal he signed in 2004.

Skipper

The news of his new deal is a massive boost for the player, for the club and for the fans ahead of the clash with Chelsea tomorrow.

Rooney, who has captained United once this season, aims to be the regular skipper.

He has also told team-mates he also believes he can become United's greatest ever player.

It is a tall order, when recalling the likes of Duncan Edwards, George Best, Denis Law, Sir Bobby Charlton and Eric Cantona.

But many people at Old Trafford, Ferguson included, think Rooney can be just that.

Rooney, who was 21 on October 24, signed from Everton two years last August in a £27m deal, a record between British clubs.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Chelsea have got an impressive Premiership record at Old Trafford:

April 17, 1993:	Man United 3	Chelsea 0
March 5, 1994:	Man United 0	Chelsea 1
April 17, 1995:	Man United 0	Chelsea 0
Dec 2, 1995:	Man United 1	Chelsea 1
Nov 2, 1996:	Man United 1	Chelsea 2
Sept 24, 1997:	Man United 2	Chelsea 2
Dec 16, 1998:	Man United 1	Chelsea 0
April 24, 2000:	Man United 3	Chelsea 2
Sept 23, 2000:	Man United 3	Chelsea 3
Dec 1, 2001:	Man United 0	Chelsea 3
Jan 18, 2003:	Man United 2	Chelsea 1
May 8, 2004:	Man United 1	Chelsea 1
May 10, 2005:	Man United 1	Chelsea 3
Nov 6, 2005:	Man United 1	Chelsea 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Man United	14	5	5	4	19	19
Chelsea	14	4	5	5	19	19

TEAMS

UNITED: Van der Sar; Neville, Ferdinand, Vidic, Heinze; Ronaldo, Carrick, Scholes, Giggs; Saha, Rooney.

CHELSEA: Cudicini; Geremi, Carvalho, Terry, A Cole; Makenzie, Essien, Lampard, Ballack; Shevchenko, Drogba.

Referee: H. Webb

TV TIMES: Sky Sports 1, 3.30pm, Kick-off: 4pm.

